

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 AF-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

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R 221754 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECEN EEC

SUBJECT: MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND PREFERENCES

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMSTRONG CALLED ON DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OLIVER WRIGHT (FCO) JUNE 22 FOR REVIEW OF SEVERAL OUTSTANDING MATTERS INCLUDING MEDITERRANEAN POLICY OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

2. WRIGHT SAID MATTER WAS ON AGENDA OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN LUXEMBOURG JUNE 25-26 BUT THAT NO FINAL SOLUTION COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THAT MEETING. THE BRITISH ARE TRYING TO SEPARATE SPAIN AND ISRAEL AND MAKE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH THESE

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TWO COUNTRIES A SEPARATE ISSUE FROM THE POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE REST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. BRITISH REMINDED ARMSTRONG THAT THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED A MODIFIED FREE TRADE AREA WITH REGARD TO SPAIN. THEY HAVE RECENTLY AND SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE NECESSITY FOR A MODIFIED FREE TRADE AREA WITH ISRAEL. THEY EXPECT THE MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THESE TWO COUNTRIES TO BE APPROVED AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE 25 TH AND 26 TH. THEY EXPECT A FRENCH EFFORT TO USE THE SPANISH AND ISRAELI PRECEDENT TO EXTEND THE FREE TRADE AREA CONCEPT TO OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE MAGHREB. THEY PLAN TO RESIST THIS FIRMLY AND HOPE OTHER COUNTRIES WILL DO LIKEWISE. HOWEVER, THEY SAY THAT THE GERMANS APPEAR "A BIT WOBBLY." THEY ARE NOT SURE WHY. THEIR TACTICS WILL BE TO TRY TO POSTPONE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF MEDITERRANEAN UNTIL AFTER THE MEETING WITH ASSOCIATES AND ASSOCIABLES AT THE END OF JULY IN THE HOPES THAT THE AFRICANS WILL REGISTER STRONG OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES, THUS CREATING PRECEDENT WHICH MAY BE USED TO DEFEAT RECIPROCAL CONCESSION WHERE THE MEDITERRANEAN IS CONCERNED. WRIGHT CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE DID NOT THINK "THE LINE ON THE MAGHREB" WOULD GIVE WAY.

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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